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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/751,314	01/02/2004	Adolf Sicheneder	PO-7874 / LeA 36,332	2004

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LANXESS CORPORATION  
PATENT DEPARTMENT/ BLDG 14  
100 BAYER ROAD  
PITTSBURGH, PA 15205-9741

EXAMINER
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DAVIS, BRIAN J

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1621

DATE MAILED: 01/26/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

## Office Action Summary

**Application No.**

10/751,314

**Applicant(s)**

SICHENEDER ET AL.

**Examiner**

Brian J. Davis

**Art Unit**

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 3-8 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 9 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 2 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>5/14/04</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Claim Objections***

Claim 2 is objected to because of the following informalities: the claim contains ungrammatical phrasing. The examiner respectfully suggests that the phrase "...of the compounds..." in line 2 of the claim text should be deleted. Appropriate correction is required.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein

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were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Tetrahedron Letters* (2001), 42, p. 4791-4793, cited by the applicant in the IDS.

Applicant claims a process for the synthesis of nitrodiphenylamines by reacting halogenated benzenes with aniline in the presence of base and a catalyst of formula (I).

*Tetrahedron Letters* (2001), 42, p. 4791-4793 teaches the synthesis of diaryl- and triaryl amines in the presence of cesium carbonate and  $\text{Cu}(\text{PPh}_3)_3\text{Br}$  (abstract). The procedure is general for the formation of aryl-nitrogen bonds under mild conditions and in the presence of various functional groups, e.g. nitro (page 4793 first full paragraph; Table 1). Diphenylamines in particular are synthesized from substituted anilines and aryl iodides (page 4792 last full paragraph).

Applicant distinguishes over the prior art in that a reaction between a nitrohalogenated benzene and an aniline is specifically claimed, yielding a nitrodiphenylamine (a diarylamine). Although the cited prior art does not explicitly exemplify the reaction of these two sets of starting materials together, nitrohalogenated benzene and anilines are, in fact, used separately as starting materials (examples 7 and 12-15 of Table 1). This, coupled with the fact that the general applicability of the prior art aryl-nitrogen coupling reaction is specifically and clearly pointed out by the authors,

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would have motivated one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to contemplate and therefore to try the instant combination of starting materials the reaction of the prior art.

Of course, an 'obvious to try' standard is impermissible in two situations: 1) where the prior art gives no indication as to which of numerous parameters are critical, or gives no indication as to which of many possible choices is likely to be successful; and 2) where the prior art gives only general guidance with respect to the form of the invention but not how to achieve it new areas of technology or in fields of experimentation which are only seemingly promising. *In re O'Farrell*, 853 F.2d 894, 7 USPQ 2d 1673, 1681 (Fed. Cir. 1988). However, neither 1) nor 2) above applies.

### ***Double Patenting***

The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. See *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and, *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent is shown to be commonly owned with this application. See 37 CFR 1.130(b).

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

Claim 9 is provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claim 11 of copending

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published Application No. 2004/0198997. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other. The instant process is a species of the generic process taught by 2004/0198897.

This is a provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection because the conflicting claims have not in fact been patented.

### ***Allowable Subject Matter***

Claims 1 and 3-8 are allowed. Claim 2 would be allowable once the objection outlined in this Office Action has been overcome.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

The closest prior art appears to be *Tetrahedron Letters* (2001), 42, p. 4791-4793, outlined above. The cited prior art neither teaches nor suggests the instant coupling process followed by reduction of the nitro moiety. Nor would it have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to modify the process of the prior art in order to arrive at that of the instant invention. There is no motivation to do so.

### ***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Brian J. Davis whose telephone number is 571-272-0638. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30-5:00.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Johann Richter can be reached on 571-272-0646. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

 **BRIAN DAVIS**  
**PRIMARY EXAMINER**

Brian J. Davis  
January 23, 2005